



NEWS RELEASE



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COUNTY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES IN CONNECTICUT – FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Two of Connecticut's four large counties reported employment increases from December 2009 to December 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2009 annual average employment.) Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that Fairfield County had the higher rate of employment growth, up 1.3 percent. Hartford County reported an employment gain of 0.9 percent. The State's remaining large counties, New Haven and New London, recorded over-the-year declines, down 0.4 percent each.

Nationally, employment increased 0.9 percent from December 2009 to December 2010. The largest over-the-year percentage increase in employment was recorded in Elkhart, Ind., up 5.2 percent. Manatee, Fla., experienced the largest over-the-year rate of job decline, down 4.0 percent.

Among the four largest counties in Connecticut, employment was highest in Hartford (491,299) and lowest in New London (124,969). Along with Fairfield and New Haven, the four large counties accounted for 84.5 percent of the State's total employment in December 2010. Nationwide, the 326 largest counties accounted for 70.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

All four large counties in the State recorded increases in average weekly wages from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the fourth quarter of 2010. Fairfield County recorded the largest increase, up 3.9 percent. Fairfield County also had the highest average weekly wage in the State at \$1,668 and ranked 4th highest among the 326 largest counties nationwide. (See table 1.) Nationally, the average weekly wage rose 3.0 percent over the year to \$971 in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the four counties in Connecticut with employment below 75,000. Average weekly wages in three of these smaller counties were below the national average. (See table 2.)

Large County Wage Changes

Fairfield County's wage gain of 3.9 percent ranked 59th among the 326 largest U.S. counties. (See table 1.) New Haven's 2.8-percent wage increase placed 133rd. The smaller wage gains in Hartford (1.7 percent) and New London (1.5 percent) ranked 220th and 232nd, respectively.

Nationwide, 294 of the 326 largest counties had over-the-year increases in average weekly wages from the fourth quarter of 2009. Olmsted, Minn., had the largest wage gain in the nation, 31.9 percent. Santa Clara, Calif., was second with a gain of 14.4 percent, followed by the counties of Williamson, Tenn. (9.0 percent), Rock Island, Ill. (8.1 percent), and Lake, Ind. (7.6 percent).

Union, N.J., had the largest wage decline, down 2.8 percent over the year. Montgomery, Ala., and Montgomery, Pa., had the second largest percent decline in average weekly wages among the counties, followed by Collin, Texas, Benton Ark., and Williamson, Texas.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

As noted, average weekly wages in Fairfield County placed 4th among the 326 largest U.S. counties in the fourth quarter of 2010. Hartford (\$1,177, 38th) and New Haven (\$1,039, 74th) joined Fairfield with average weekly wages above the U.S. average of \$971, placing all three in the top quarter of the nationwide ranking. The average weekly wage in the remaining large county, New London, was below the national average, but still ranked in the top half nationwide at 115th.

Among the highest-paid large U.S. counties, Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,943. New York, N.Y., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,929, followed by Washington, D.C. (\$1,688), and Fairfield, Conn., and Arlington, Va. (\$1,668 each).

Horry, S.C., (\$585) reported the lowest wage nationwide, followed by the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo, Texas (\$610 and \$611, respectively). Wages in the lowest-ranked county, Horry, were less than one third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif.

Average Weekly Wages in Connecticut's Smaller Counties

Three of the four counties in Connecticut with employment below 75,000—Litchfield, Windham, and Tolland counties—had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$971, with Windham reporting the lowest, \$786. Middlesex County was the exception, with an average weekly wage of \$1,033. (See table 2.)

When considering all eight counties in Connecticut, four had an average weekly wage above \$1,000. Average wages in the remaining four counties were below the national average. (See table 2.)

Additional Statistics and other Information

QCEW data for states has been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/>.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2009 edition of this bulletin contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2010 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from the 2009 Employment and Wages Annual Bulletin are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn09.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (617) 565-2072; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on the QCEW program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the New England Information Office at (617) 565-2327. This release is available in PDF and HTML format on the New England BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/ro1/ctqcew.htm.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.1 million employer reports cover 129.5 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Table 1. Covered [1] employment and wages in the United States and the 4 largest counties in Connecticut, fourth quarter 2010 [2]

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage [3]			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level [5]	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10 [4]	National ranking by percent change [5]
United States [6]	129,451.6	0.9	--	\$971	--	3.0	--
Connecticut	1,628.6	0.5	--	1,226	2	2.8	28
Fairfield, Conn.	407.4	1.3	93	1,668	4	3.9	59
Hartford, Conn.	491.3	0.9	139	1,177	38	1.7	220
New Haven, Conn.	352.8	-0.4	259	1,039	74	2.8	133
New London, Conn.	125.0	-0.4	259	956	115	1.5	232

[1] Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

[4] Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

[5] Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

[6] Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered[1] employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Connecticut, fourth quarter 2010[2]

Area	Employment December 2010	Average Weekly Wage [3]
United States [4]	129,451,603	\$971
Connecticut	1,628,566	1,226
Fairfield	407,414	1,668
Hartford	491,299	1,177
Litchfield	59,879	852
Middlesex	64,773	1,033
New Haven	352,804	1,039
New London	124,969	956
Tolland	40,842	872
Windham	38,216	786

[1] Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

Table 3. Covered [1] employment and wages by state, fourth quarter 2010 [2]

State	Employment		Average weekly wage [3]			
	December 2010 (thousands)	Percent change, December 2009-10	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, fourth quarter 2009-10	National ranking by percent change
United States [4]	129,451.6	0.9	\$971	--	3.0	--
Alabama	1,823.8	0.3	839	31	2.4	36
Alaska	306.6	1.4	987	12	2.9	24
Arizona	2,417.0	0.5	892	21	1.4	47
Arkansas	1,143.4	0.5	738	47	1.8	42
California	14,561.6	0.6	1,128	6	5.0	2
Colorado	2,203.9	0.9	1,001	11	3.7	10
Connecticut	1,628.6	0.5	1,226	2	2.8	28
Delaware	404.9	1.5	1,003	10	4.4	7
District of Columbia	698.5	1.6	1,688	1	4.5	5
Florida	7,258.9	0.7	871	25	1.8	42
Georgia	3,790.7	0.7	906	20	3.4	16
Hawaii	598.0	0.8	859	28	1.9	41
Idaho	601.7	-0.4	733	48	3.5	12
Illinois	5,573.7	0.9	1,035	8	2.9	24
Indiana	2,743.6	1.2	804	39	2.9	24
Iowa	1,446.1	0.6	797	40	3.4	16
Kansas	1,311.7	0.2	812	37	2.5	35
Kentucky	1,747.7	1.3	794	42	1.7	44
Louisiana	1,849.5	0.3	863	27	3.5	12
Maine	578.3	-0.1	769	46	1.3	48
Maryland	2,488.6	1.0	1,080	7	2.7	32
Massachusetts	3,188.2	1.4	1,217	4	3.3	19
Michigan	3,817.3	1.3	938	19	2.7	32
Minnesota	2,579.6	0.6	974	16	5.0	2
Mississippi	1,081.6	0.4	706	51	1.3	48
Missouri	2,596.8	-0.1	839	31	2.8	28
Montana	419.5	0.1	721	49	3.6	11
Nebraska	902.9	0.7	772	45	2.0	39
Nevada	1,114.5	-0.8	880	22	0.6	51
New Hampshire	610.0	0.6	978	14	2.1	37
New Jersey	3,792.0	-0.2	1,161	5	1.5	46
New Mexico	786.7	-0.1	817	35	2.8	28
New York	8,507.7	1.0	1,219	3	2.1	37
North Carolina	3,831.7	0.7	840	30	2.7	32
North Dakota	368.8	4.3	809	38	7.6	1
Ohio	4,963.5	1.1	865	26	3.0	23
Oklahoma	1,506.9	1.2	797	40	4.5	5
Oregon	1,609.4	1.0	852	29	2.8	28
Pennsylvania	5,547.3	1.3	951	17	2.0	39
Rhode Island	450.8	0.5	940	18	3.1	22
South Carolina	1,770.6	1.2	775	44	1.6	45
South Dakota	391.1	1.4	714	50	3.8	9
Tennessee	2,599.4	1.1	878	23	3.5	12
Texas	10,352.8	2.0	977	15	3.4	16
Utah	1,170.2	1.1	827	34	3.9	8
Vermont	299.3	0.9	814	36	1.1	50
Virginia	3,578.5	0.8	1,028	9	3.3	19
Washington	2,803.1	1.0	981	13	2.9	24
West Virginia	698.0	0.6	778	43	3.5	12
Wisconsin	2,665.9	1.1	836	33	3.2	21
Wyoming	270.5	1.3	872	24	4.9	4
Puerto Rico	956.7	-2.3	559	[5]	1.5	[5]
Virgin Islands	44.9	2.0	805	[5]	8.3	[5]

[1] Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

[2] Data are preliminary.

[3] Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

[4] Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

[5] Data not included in the national ranking.